

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00248 211339Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /077 W

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O R 211250Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5752

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0248

FOR AF - EDMONSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RH SF

SUBJ: FON MIN MULLER'S REMARKS ON RHODESIA BEFORE

CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS MADE BY FON MIN MULLER BEFORE CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON ON FEB 16. SPEECH AND QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION CONDUCTED MOSTLY IN AFRIKAANS. THIS IS OUR TRANSLATION.

2. WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA, THERE ARE GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW INITIATIVE, WHICH IS ON THE VERGE OF BEING TAKEN. ONE HOPES THAT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE - THAT A SOLUTION... A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND FOR THAT DIFFICULT PROBLEM. AS IS KNOWN, AS IS REPEATEDLY STATED, THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATED THIS AGAIN RECENTLY, SOUTH AFRICA WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA THROUGH NEGOTIATION. WE MUST HOPE AND TRUST THAT IF A SOLUTION COMES, SUCH A SOLUTION WILL KEEP IN MIND, AND MEET WITH ALL THE REALITIES. FURTHER, I THINK I SHOULD AT THIS STAGE SAY NO MORE ABOUT RHODESIA, WE MUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS FURTHER. TIME ALONE WILL SHOW IF A

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00248 211339Z

PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE FOR RHODESIA. BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, IT WOULD HAVE VERY FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES, NOT ONLY FOR RHODESIA, BUT FOR US IN SOUTH AFRICA AND FOR THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A SUB-CONTINENT.

3. Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S

ATTITUDE TOWARDS AN INTERNAL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA.

A: YOU KNOW, I THINK IT SHOULD BE QUITE CLEAR BY NOW THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS NEVER DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SOLUTION. WE'VE NEVER EXPRESSED VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SOLUTION, WE'VE GONE OUT OF OUR WAY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE TO GET THE PARTIES TOGETHER BUT WE HAVE EMPHASISED TIME AND AGAIN, ITS FOR THE PEOPLE CONCERNED TO FIND A SOLUTION. HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE IS NOT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO SAY.

Q: A REPORT WAS BROADCAST THIS MORNING THAT MR. BOTHA, MR. SHAUFELE AND A SENIOR BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE ARE TO MEET IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY TO START DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMENT ON THAT?

A: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THE PARTICULARS BUT I CAN SAY THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE THREE GOVERNMENTS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCLOSE THE EXACT DETAILS.

4. Q: YOU MENTIONED THE INFLUENCE THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAD IN TERMS OF TERRORISM IN RHODESIA - THE SETTLEMENT THAT MR. SMITH IS TRYING TO REACH WITH MUZOREWA NOW - WHAT WE HEAR OF - IS IT IN YOUR OPINION BECAUSE OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS .....FOR MUGABE AND NKOMO - DOES THIS MEAN THAT IF SMITH DOES REACH ANY KIND OF AGREEMENT WITH MUZOREWA, BECAUSE OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENT'S INFLUENCE THAT INFACIT IT WILL BE INEFFECTIVE OR MEANINGLESS UNLESS HE INVOLVED THE OTHER TWO?

A: I HOPE YOU WON'T - I HOPE YOU WILL EXCUSE ME - I AM NOT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00248 211339Z

GOING TO ANSWER THIS ONE, I AM NOT GOING TO SAY, FOR VERY GOOD REASONS, MORE THAN THE PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID OVER THE BBC. AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, IN VIEW OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE, I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID WHICH COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON WHATEVER MAY BE DECIDED - NOBODY KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO BE DECIDED WHAT LINE THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE, I THINK WE MUST NOT SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AND ONLY HOPE THAT THEY SUCCEED IN FINDING SOMETHING THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE AND WHICH WILL WORK IN PRACTICE. I AM SORRY ABOUT THIS.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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